



KENTUCKY

LONG-TERM POLICY RESEARCH CENTER

111 St. James Court, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-8486 ☎ Phone: 502-564-2851 or 866-230-1587

Fax: 502-564-1412 or 800-383-1412 ☎ E-mail: ltprc@lrc.ky.gov ☎ Web: www.kltprc.net

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September 29, 2009

Secretary Nikki Jackson

Personnel Cabinet

State Office Bldg., 501 High Street

Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Secretary Jackson:

In this era of fiscal constraint, it is likely that governments will look increasingly to community-based organizations, nonprofits, businesses and citizens to forge partnerships and relationships to address public policy issues. Successful efforts for change—such as enhancing health, improving education, expanding prosperity, crafting “greener” energy and environmental policies, embracing new modes of social networking, and encouraging the arts—will, by necessity, spring from nontraditional areas and approaches.

With this in mind, the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center is sponsoring a one-day conference, *Be the Change: One Person, One Community at a Time*, designed to heighten awareness about the fiscal and social trends reshaping the public policy landscape; to share stories and examples of successful community-level initiatives representing a broad spectrum of policy areas; and to facilitate the development of a robust network of social entrepreneurs at the local level. This conference will take place on October 15, 2009, at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville.

The enclosed information has more details about the event. Should you have any questions or are interested in attending, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Childress

Executive Director

BE THE CHANGE

one person, one community at a time

October 15, 2009

Kentucky International Convention Center



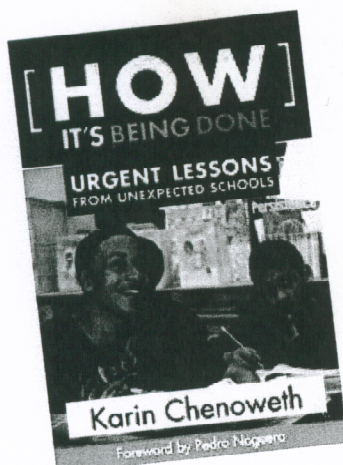
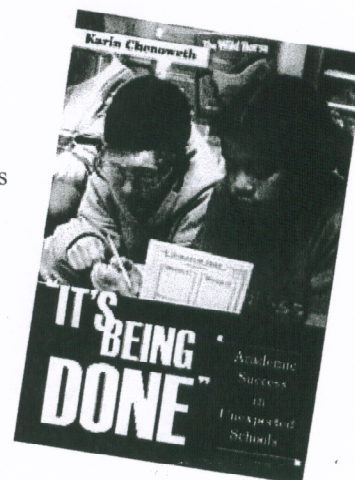
ONE OF OUR
FEATURED SPEAKERS

Karin Chenoweth is one of our featured speakers and will discuss the major findings from her two critically acclaimed books published by Harvard Education Press on closing the academic achievement gap, *It's Being Done: Academic Success in Unexpected Schools* and *How It's Being Done: Urgent Lessons from Unexpected Schools*. Narrowing and eventually closing the achievement gaps will be critical for Kentucky's future prosperity given that over half our students are considered less-advantaged. She is a longtime education writer who currently writes for The Education Trust. From 1999 to 2004 she wrote a column on schools and education for *The Washington Post*, and before that was senior writer and executive editor of *Black Issues in Higher Education* (now *Diverse*). Those with an interest in learning about successful strategies for closing achievement gaps and how it could affect Kentucky's future economy should plan to attend.

For more information about our speakers and the conference, see our Web site at www.kltprc.net or call 866-230-1587.

It's Being Done
Academic Success in Unexpected Schools
Harvard Education Press, 2007

This straightforward and inspiring book takes readers into schools where educators believe—and prove—that all children, even those considered “hard-to-teach,” can learn to high standards. Their teachers and principals refuse to write them off and instead show how thoughtful instruction, high expectations, stubborn commitment, and careful consideration of each child's needs can result in remarkable improvements in student achievement.



How It's Being Done
Urgent Lessons from Unexpected Schools
Harvard Education Press, 2009

How It's Being Done offers much-needed help to educators, providing detailed accounts of the ways in which unexpected schools—those with high-poverty and high-minority student populations—have dramatically boosted student achievement and diminished (and often eliminated) achievement gaps. *How It's Being Done* builds on Karin Chenoweth's widely hailed earlier volume, *It's Being Done*, providing specific information about how such schools have exceeded expectations and met with unprecedented levels of success.

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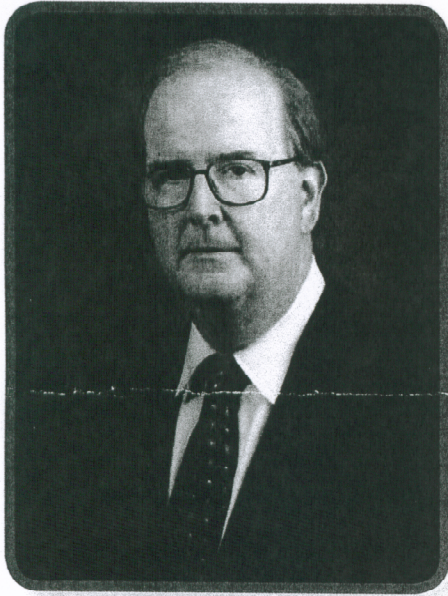
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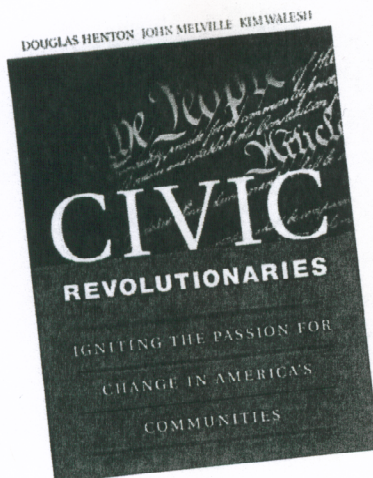
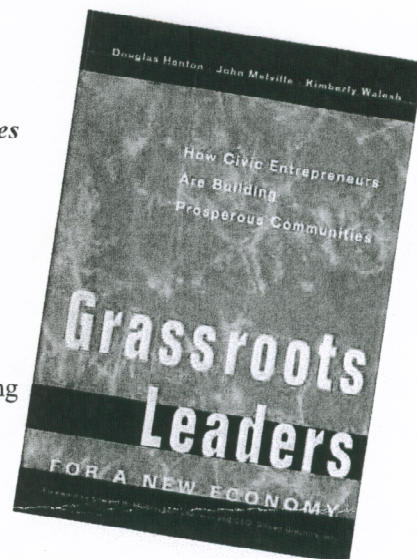
ONE OF OUR
FEATURED SPEAKERS

Doug Henton, Chairman and CEO of Collaborative Economics in Mountain View, California, will discuss the major findings from his two seminal books, *Grassroots Leaders for a New Economy: How Civic Entrepreneurs are Building Prosperous Communities* and *Civic Revolutionaries: Igniting the Passion for Change in America's Communities*, on why some communities are more successful than others in capitalizing on trends and opportunities. In this tumultuous and uncertain economic environment, these lessons and insights could be critical for the future of Kentucky's communities, cities, and counties. He has more than 30 years of experience in innovation and economic development at the national, regional, state, and local levels. He is nationally recognized for his work in bringing industry, government, education, research, and community leaders together around specific collaborative projects to improve regional competitiveness.

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Grassroots Leaders for a New Economy
How Civic Entrepreneurs Are Building Prosperous Communities
Jossey-Bass, 1997

Grassroots Leaders is about a new type of community led by a new type of leader. Economic communities are places that collaborate to compete globally. Civic entrepreneurs are a new generation of leaders who forge new, powerfully productive linkages at the intersection of business, government, education, and community. *Grassroots Leaders* is the story of people building vital, resilient economic communities in turbulent times. It is the story of what they have to teach us as we struggle to rebuild our civil society.



Civic Revolutionaries
Igniting the Passion for Change in America's Communities
Jossey-Bass, 2004

Written for leaders in business, government, education, and community, *Civic Revolutionaries* features practical guidance and in-depth case studies from communities across the country. The book provides tested advice for both new and seasoned leaders and draws essential lessons from the American revolutionary tradition to demonstrate how to become an effective leader within the community.

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SUMMARY

The Pew Center on the States refers to a cluster of trends expected to profoundly affect future government finances as "Bills Coming Due." The financial tsunami associated with an aging population and infrastructure, rising health care costs, growing prison populations, and a ballooning national debt will ensure that governments at all levels (i.e., federal, state, and local) will find it increasingly difficult to muster the financial wherewithal to do much except "tread water" for the foreseeable future. Consequently, innovative policy approaches as well as distributed leadership that includes a constellation of actors from the public, nonprofit, and private sectors will be necessary for navigating through the tumultuous waters ahead. Successful efforts for change—like encouraging the arts, improving education, expanding prosperity, crafting "greener" energy and environmental policies, embracing new modes of social networking, and enhancing health—will, by necessity, spring from nontraditional areas and approaches.

At this event, we hope to heighten awareness about the fiscal and social trends reshaping the public policy landscape; to share stories and examples of successful community-level initiatives representing a broad spectrum of policy areas; and to facilitate the development of a robust network of social entrepreneurs at the local level. Speakers include:

- **Karin Chenoweth**, an education writer with The Education Trust in Washington, D.C., will discuss the major findings from her two books published by Harvard Education Press on closing the academic achievement gap, *It's Being Done: Academic Success in Unexpected Schools* and *How It's Being Done: Urgent Lessons from Unexpected Schools*. Narrowing and eventually closing the achievement gaps will be critical for Kentucky's future prosperity given that over half our students are considered less-advantaged.
- **Dr. Gil Friedell**, **Dr. Forrest Calico**, and **Carolyn Dennis**, members of the Friedell Committee for Health Systems Transformation, will discuss their grassroots, citizen-based efforts to improve the health of all Kentuckians. Given our high rates of preventable chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and heart disease, as well as the attendant costs to governments, businesses, and families, it will be vital to develop a healthier state.
- **Doug Henton**, President and CEO of Collaborative Economics in Mountain View, California, will present the key points in his two books, *Grassroots Leaders for a New Economy: How Civic Entrepreneurs are Building Prosperous Communities* and *Civic Revolutionaries: Igniting the Passion for Change in America's Communities*, explaining how leaders can position their communities for success in a global economy.
- **Dr. Peter B. Meyer**, President and Chief Economist of The E.P. Systems Group, Inc., and Professor Emeritus of Urban Policy and Economics at the University of Louisville, where he founded and directed a Center for Environmental Policy and Management, will discuss the economic, social, and environmental consequences of external factors including climate change policies for Kentucky and possible private and public policy responses.
- **Dr. William Renzulli**, a medical doctor who left his profession in 2002 to pursue art full-time as one of the first artists to become part of Paducah's award-winning Artists Relocation Program, will discuss the symbiotic relationship between the arts and community. Over 70 artists have moved to Paducah and helped build a vibrant community that has become a national model on how the arts can revitalize a neighborhood and be used as an economic focal point.
- **Aaron Smith**, a researcher with the Pew Internet & American Life Project in Washington, D.C., will present the major findings from his report, *The Internet and Civic Engagement*. Whether and how technology can be harnessed to build stronger social capital in America's communities remains to be seen. His research suggests that communication technologies have not yet lived up to expectations, but notes there are hints on the horizon that forms of social networking could ultimately transform social and political relationships.

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